Reforms in Wakf Sector

939. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to bring about reforms in the Wakf sector; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are under process.

Muslims Below Poverty Line

940. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to conduct any survey to identify Muslims living below poverty line in each State and provided a BPL number;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated to ameliorate the economic status of Muslims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Minority Affairs, provides loans at concessional rates for self employment / income generating activities to persons belonging to the minority communities living below double the poverty line, under its various schemes *viz.* Term Loan, Micro Financing, Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Vocational Training and Marketing Assistance etc. NMDFC provides loans to individuals through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) which are nominated by the respective State/UT Governments. It also provides micro-credit through Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme being implemented by the Government aims, *inter alia*, at improving the selected socio-economic and basic amenities' parameters in the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The Government is also implementing coaching/scholarship schemes for students belonging to minority communities which aim to equip them for engaging in income generating activities.

Re-unification of Wakf Boards

941. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations for re-unification of Punjab Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh Wakf Boards; and

(b) if so, what steps Government is taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Representations have been received from time to time on the issue.

(b) No change in the status is envisaged by the Government.

Streamlining of Wakf Administration

942. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the JPC for bringing about fresh legislation to streamline Wakf administration;

(b) if so, whether measures in the Sachar Committee Report have been incorporated in the proposed legislation; and

(c) whether steps for computerisation of the records of the Wakf properties would be extended to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A proposal for amendment of the Wakf Act, 1995 is under consideration of the Government.

(c) A proposal for computerisation of data management in all State Wakf Boards is also under consideration of the Government.

Implementation of Sachar Committee Recommendations

943. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the Sachar Committee recommendations which have since been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): A statement was laid on the "Follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee" in Rajya Sabha on 31.08.2007. The statement included the salient features of the decisions taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee. The status of implementation of some of the important decisions is as under:

(a) All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts. In 2008-09, 524 new branches were opened.

(b) RBI revised its Master Circular on 5th July, 2007 on priority sector lending for improving credit facilities to minority communities. An amount of Rs 82864 crore was provided to minorities under priority sector lending during 2008-09.